

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-2 and 6-7 have been amended. Claims 3 and 8 have been cancelled. Claims 1-2, 4-7, and 9-13 are pending.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,015,088 to Dubnowski et al. ("Dubnowski"). Claims 2-3 and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dubnowski and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,377,915 to Sasaki ("Sasaki"). Claims 5 and 10 stand rejected to under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dubnowski in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,784,532 to McDonough ("McDonough")

Dubnowski appears to disclose an apparatus in which a speech signal is sampled and a resulting digital signal is clipped to form a signal including three logic states: +1; 0; and -1. An autocorrelation function of this signal is determined, and a pitch period is determined from a location and magnitude of a peak value of the autocorrelation function.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to include the features that an intermediate signal is derived from an autocorrelation function of a speech signal and also that an an autocorrelation function is calculated of a binary signal resulting from a conversion of the intermediate signal. In contrast to Dubnowski, in claims 1 and 6, an intermediate signal derived from a speech signal is converted to a binary signal and an autocorrelation function of the binary signal is calculated. Thus, an autocorrelation-function calculation is performed twice. Dubnowski does not disclose calculating an autocorrelation-function calculation twice, much less the distinguishing features of claims 1 and 6 discussed above.

Applicant respectfully submits that Dubnowski fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious at least the distinguishing features mentioned above of independent claims 1 and 6, respectively. Each of independent claims 1 and 6 is deemed to be novel and non-obvious over the cited references, singularly or in combination. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1 and 6 as anticipated by Dubnowski is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 3 and 8 have been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot. Dependent claims 2, 4-5, 7, and 9-13 depend from and further limit independent claims 1

and 6, respectively. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending dependent claims distinguish over the cited references, singularly or in combination. Withdrawal of the rejections of the pending dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently-pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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